

# CANADIAN NUMBER NAMES

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Two recent articles in *Word Ways* have explored various relationships between United States place names and the cardinal numbers: Edward Wolpow's "Cardinal Numbers in Town Names" in the May 1977 issue, and Dmitri Borgmann's "From Zero to Infinity" in the February 1978 one. For earlier wordplay of this type, see also Borgmann's book *Beyond Language* (Scribner's, 1967), in which he lists US towns containing the cardinals from one through twelve.

It's time to see what Canada can do along these lines. To develop this article, I consulted the 1972 edition of the Canadian Pacific and Canadian National Railway Guides. For each place name, I have identified the province in which it is located: from west to east, BC = British Columbia, Alta = Alberta, Sask = Saskatchewan, Man = Manitoba, Ont = Ontario, PQ = Province du Quebec, NB = New Brunswick, PEI = Prince Edward Island, NS = Nova Scotia, and Newf = Newfoundland/Labrador.

First, I list a handful of "pure" number names in other languages:

- 1 UNO Man - Italian "one"
- 7 SEPTIMUS BC - Latin "seventh"
- 10 DIX PQ - French "ten"

Strangely, the only number name in English appears to be MILLION Man, equal to the largest cardinal number name found in the US.

Next, I list (in the spirit of *Beyond Language*) all Canadian place names I have been able to find which use cardinal or ordinal numbers as part of their names:

- 1 ONE SIDED LAKE Ont, UNO PARK Ont
- 2 TWO CREEKS Man/Alta, TWO ISLANDS NS, TWO LAKES Alta, TWO RIVERS Alta/BC/NS
- 3 THREE ARMS Newf, THREE BROOKS NB/NS, THREE CREEKS Alta, THREE FATHOM HARBOUR NS, THREE HILLS Alta, THREEHOUSE Man, THREE LAKES PQ, THREE MILE LAKE Ont, THREE MILE PLAINS NS, THREE ROCK COVE Newf, THREE TREE CREEK NB, THREE VALLEY BC, TROIS RIVIERES PQ
- 4 FOUR CORNERS Sask, FOUR ROADS NB, QUATRE CHEMINS PQ, QUATRE COINS PQ

- 5 FIVE FINGERS Yukon/NB, FIVE HOUSES PEI, FIVE ISLANDS NS, FIVE MILE RIVER NS
- 6 SIX MILE BROOK NS, SIX MILE LAKE Ont, SIX MILE ROAD NS, SIX NATIONS Ont, SIX PORTAGES PQ, SIX ROADS NB
- 7 SEPT ILES PQ, SEPTIEME LAC PQ, SEVEN MILE NARROWS Ont, SEVENOAKS BC, SEVEN PERSONS Alta, SEVEN SISTERS FALLS Man
- 8 EIGHT ISLAND LAKE NS
- 9 NINE MILE CREEK PEI, NINE MILE RIVER NS
- 10 TEN MILE CREEK NB, TEN MILE POINT Yukon
- 14 FOURONE Alta, FOURTEEN ISLAND LAKE PQ, FOURTEEN MILE HOUSE NS
- 16 SIXTEEN ISLAND LAKE PQ
- 40 FORTY MILE Yukon
- 45 FORTYFIFTH AVENUE BC
- 48 FORTYEIGHT ROAD PEI
- 70 SEVENTY MILE HOUSE BC

The even odder 100 MILE HOUSE, 115 MILE HOUSE and 150 MILE HOUSE can be found on the same stretch of British Columbia railroad!

Finally, I list various Canadian place names that form transadditions of the cardinal numbers. As these are hard to spot, I make no claim that I have found the shortest examples:

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|-----------------|------------------|
| 0 OZERNA Man    | 7 VENABLES Man   |
| 1 NOEL NS       | 8 THIVIERGE PQ   |
| 2 WOSTOCK Alta  | 9 INNES Sask     |
| 3 HERBERT Sask  | 10 NEST Ont      |
| 4 FROUDE Sask   | 11 EVANGELINE NB |
| 5 FAIRVIEW Alta | 12 WESTVILLE NS  |
| 6 KISPIOX BC    |                  |

Actually, FAIRVIEW is found in six different provinces; I have listed only the most important one.